

CLAIMS

We claim:

1 <sup>sub</sup> 1. A method for handling browser requests for more than one data  
2 service with a personal proxy program, said method comprising:  
3 accessing a browser's Internet settings;  
4 storing said browser's Internet settings;  
5 setting said browser to access said personal proxy program;  
6 accepting in said personal proxy program a request from said Internet browser;  
7 selecting a handler to handle said request; and  
8 directing said request to said handler.

1 2. The method of claim 1 wherein directing said request to said  
2 handler comprises directing said request to the Internet using said Internet settings if said  
3 the Internet should handle said request.

1 3. The method of claim 1 wherein directing said request to said  
2 handler comprises directing said request to a second program running on a computer  
3 system that is running said personal proxy program.

1 4. The method of claim 3 wherein said second program comprises a  
2 local cache server if said local cache server should handle said request.



1           9.     The apparatus of claim 7 wherein said first request handler  
2 comprises directing said request to a second program running on a computer system that  
3 is running said personal proxy program.

1           10.    The apparatus of claim 7 wherein said first request handler  
2 comprises a local cache server.

1           11.    The apparatus of claim 7 wherein said first request handler  
2 comprises an external data appliance device.

1           12.    The apparatus of claim 11 wherein said external data appliance  
2 device receives data from a data broadcast network.

1           13.    A method for handling browser requests from a browser program  
2 for more than one data service with a personal proxy program, said method comprising:  
3       accessing an original browser autoconfig file used by said browser program;  
4       creating a modified autoconfig file from said original browser autoconfig file;  
5       instructing said browser program to access said modified autoconfig file;  
6       accepting in said personal proxy program a request from said browser program;

7 selecting a handler to handle said request; and  
8 directing said request to said handler.

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1 14. The method of claim 13 wherein directing said modified  
2 autoconfig file directs requests to said personal proxy program.

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